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"Eugenics is the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations either physically or mentally."

OBJECTS.

I.

Persistently to set forth the National Importance of Eugenics in order to modify public opinion, and create a sense of responsibility in the respect of bringing all matters pertaining to human parenthood under the domination of Eugenic ideals.

II.

To spread a knowledge of the Laws of heredity so far as they are surely known, and so far as that knowledge might affect the improvement of the race.

III.

To further Eugenic Teaching, at home, in the schools, and elsewhere.

SUBSCRIPTION.

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| Membership | - | - | - | One Guinea per Annum. |
| Associate Membership | - | - | - | Five Shillings per Annum. |

PRIVILEGES.

Attendance at Lectures, Discussions, and General Meetings, Use of Library.
Members only receive THE EUGENICS REVIEW free.

Forms of Application for Membership and Associate Membership and full particulars of the Society can be obtained of the Hon. Secretary.

OFFICES: 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

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assimilating these diseases with other transmissible diseases and in a medical, not a police, system of prevention. In the result the Conference passed no resolution on the subject.

In Great Britain, as is well known, owing largely to the efforts of the late Mrs. Josephine Butler, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, and others, "Regulation" was abolished after a comparatively brief trial and nothing substituted for it. Mr. Ernest Lane, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Lock Hospital, was able to tell the Conference of 1903 that he, in common with many others, had prophesied an increase of disease as a consequence of the repeal of "the Acts." He found, on the contrary, that the cases were fewer and of a milder character. Speaking of the London streets he considered they were "not really worse than those of foreign cities"—not a very flattering parallel—whilst the central market of vice in the Metropolis was, he declared, mainly recruited from foreigners.

The most encouraging piece of evidence was furnished by diagrams and figures compiled from the Army Medical, the Navy Medical, and the Registrar-General's Reports, and these diagrams and figures are well worth studying in connection with the article contributed to the present issue of this REVIEW by Dr. Hill-Climo. They show, indeed, an increase of disease in 1902-3, which, as the author of the pamphlet now under notice suggests, is probably due to the return in these years of large numbers of men from S. Africa. The process of steady improvement has, we are assured, been renewed since, and is attributable to "moral causes and the efforts of officers to exercise a wholesome influence over their men." A fresh testimony this to the superiority of individual effort over State interference and supervision.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE

The Englishwoman, September, 1909, contains two articles dealing with subjects of direct eugenic interest. "The Outcasts," by Mrs. H. M. Richardson, is a courageous indictment of the present 'conspiracy of silence' which enshrouds the subject of prostitution and its attendant racial evils. It appeals to women to assume their responsibilities in the matter, to inform themselves as to the position of affairs, and not be guided by the opinion of the 'man of the world.' The contributory causes of prostitution are examined and its eugenic dangers pointed out. "An enormous number of the young men of the land are bitten through and through with venereal disease, which breaks out in the children of their marriage, or renders their marriage unproductive; it is estimated that over 75 per cent. of the inmates of our lunatic asylums are the victims of such disease, contracted directly, indirectly, or inherited; and it is a well-known fact among medical men that a great amount of blindness from birth is due to the same cause."

Mrs. Richardson finds that the unorganised condition of women's work, with the resulting sweating and underpayment in many trades, is generally the principal cause of girls being forced on to the streets. Society ignoring their condition they take deadly revenge by spreading the poison of inheritable disease among the fathers of future generations.

"Is this not too great a price to pay for the comfort of ignorance? In asking this, educated women must remember that although prostitution does perhaps safeguard their chastity from attack, it is all the time eating insidiously into family life. . . . Medical men do not always tell their patients what ails them, and many a young wife is to-day reaping the harvest of wild oats sown before marriage by her husband, many a woman is denied motherhood, and many a mother has reason to regret her motherhood for the same cause."

The silence men have hitherto maintained through self-interest, and women through ignorance, must at last have an end. The whole subject must be considered in a straightforward scientific manner, but, first and

foremost, women must assert themselves and demand knowledge. Little can be done, in the estimation of the writer, until "woman has won her way to a place from which she can enforce recognition of her claim to be considered the arbiter of her own fate."

"The Illegitimate Child," by Marion Philips, gives an account of the present position of the law with regard to illegitimacy, shewing up various very grave effects it has both on the parent and the child. The lack of consideration shewn to the prospective mother of an illegitimate child is such as to ensure the latter the worst possible start in life, and the former an equally poor chance of ever regaining her position either economically or socially, although she alone has to bear the cost of maintaining her child.

"Perhaps the most serious side of the whole question is that so many of these mothers . . . are actually feeble-minded and unfit for any responsibility whatever." "Remedies are not to be sought in legislation on the question of bastardy alone. Important palliatives would be the protective treatment of the feeble-minded and legitimisation by marriage after the child's birth."

The Economic Review for July, 1909, contains an interesting article by the Rev. L. Pringle on "The Belgian Detention Colony at Merxplas." It is of especial interest to eugenists who advocate the permanent segregation of the unfit, as showing how, under proper control, such industrial colonies can be made very nearly self-supporting. Mr. Pringle gives a detailed account of the financial system on which M. Stroobant, the Director, manages the Belgian Colony, which is for the detention of the vagrant class.

"The Government charges so much a day for every person sentenced by a magistrate to a term of detention as a vagabond, in order to meet all the expenses incurred while the vagabond is in health. This charge of 6½d. per day is met in equal portions by the local authority (commune), the province, and the state; 7½d. is charged if the man is not quite able-bodied, and 1s. 3d. when he is ill; but the whole of this amount must be paid by the Local Authority."

Mr. Pringle describes the system in detail, shewing the types of men sent to the Colony, the trades they are taught, the profits made on the produce of the Colony, which is mostly bought by the Government, and analyses the balance sheet in such a manner as to shew that the total cost to the Belgian Government for the detention of a 'vagabond' is £3 15s. per annum. "The housing, bedding, clothing, food and all the details of accommodation at Merxplas leave nothing to be desired. There is not a trace of anything niggard, mean, or shabby."

It is pointed out that the economic result is all the more striking when it is remembered that the industries are carried out by a constantly changing and fluctuating group, the inmates having sentences of various terms, and constantly changing.

"While Merxplas is primarily a place of segregation, nothing is clearer than that the Government refuses to countenance anything at all resembling the final relegation of men to the seclusion of its walls."

"The Director is of the opinion that it is rare for these men to propagate the species during their holidays away from Merxplas."

"The great majority have quite definite physical, mental, or moral defects, but do not have them in such a degree as to cause them to be shut up or taken care of elsewhere."

With the last two quotations the eugenist cannot be expected to agree, as other reports show that it is just this vagrant class that incur parental responsibilities in an utterly irresponsible manner. However, as the writer says: "The large variety of persons who will shortly be airing their views as to the proper type of detention institution to be set up in this country for vagabonds and 'won't works' will have to show, if they reject the Merxplas method (1) That their methods are economical; (2) that they fit in more

¹ The inmates of London workhouses cost 2s. a day each.

readily with modern industrial and social conditions, and also (3) that they have a more complete historical justification."

The Sociological Review (July, 1909) contains an article on "Race-Progress and Race-Degeneracy," by G. Chatterton Hill.

Mr. Hill discusses the problem of the declining birth-rate in France, and attributes it to the "constant mingling of two originally distinct and antagonistic racial elements." The population of present-day France is derived principally from two races, the dolichocephalous (*Homo Europeus*) being predominant in the north, and the brachycephalous type (*Homo Alpinus*) in the south. The intercrossing of these types is continuous, and in this "bastardising" Professor Lapouge also sees the main factor in the decrease in the birth-rate.

Mr. Hill supports this theory with evidence shewing the incongruity arising from the mixture of types, both in physical and psychical characters, thereby influencing both racial and social conditions.

The table of classification made by Wieth-Knudsen of the French departments, showing the fluctuation of the birthrate in relation to the number of immigrants invading each department, is reproduced. From this table it is seen that "the number of legitimate births increases in direct proportion to the diminution of the number of immigrants from outside, in each group of departments."

"There are also secondary causes which tend to make themselves felt especially strongly among the upper and middle classes, and among the peasantry. . . . Chief among them is the system of deliberate restriction, but this system is itself the physiological consequence of underlying economic causes."

The writer suggests that France to-day, with capacity for supporting double its population, affords a good example to those who would confound economic with biological improvement. The result of reducing the severity of the struggle for existence by decreased population is that there is "less material for natural selection to act upon," and no enhancement of biological quality.

It is held that increase of stature and longevity may go hand in hand with degeneracy, the former being due respectively to improved conditions of living and improved sanitary and hygienic conditions. "A race which counteracts the working of selection, does so only at the risk of imminent peril, for it has entered on the path which leads to degeneracy and bankruptcy."

In realising that the germ-plasm is largely independent of environmental conditions the writer thinks we may be "more optimistic as to the future progress of the human race in the Western world" than would otherwise be possible in view of the "shameful and deplorable" conditions in which large masses of the population live.

The Sociological Review also contains Dr. Saleeby's paper on the "Obstacles to Eugenics," to which brief reference was made in our first number.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

- Christianity and Sex Problems*, by HUGH NORTHCOTE, M.A. (Davis, Philadelphia, 1906.)
- The Relative Strength of Nurture and Nature*, by ETHEL M. ELDERTON. (Eugenics Laboratory Lecture Series, III.)
- The Problem of Practical Eugenics*, by KARL PEARSON, F.R.S. (Eugenics Laboratory Lecture Series, V.)
- Zür Reform der Conventiellen Geschlechtsmoral*, by Dr. HELENE STÖCKER. From the Zeitschrift für Socialwissenschaft, X. Band, 10 & 11 Heft, 1907.
- Heredity-Cancer*, by J. H. EVANS, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine, January, 1909.)
- A Biometrical Study of Egg Production in the Domestic Fowl. I. Variation in Annual Egg Production.* (U.S. Department of Agriculture.) By RAYMOND PEARL & F. M. SURFACE.
- On the Relation of Race-Crossing to Sex-Ratio*, by MAUD DE WITT PEARL and RAYMOND PEARL. (Biological Bulletin, Vol. XV., No. 4.)

We have also to acknowledge the receipt of several other papers, less definitely eugenic in bearing, from Prof. Raymond Pearl.

QUARTERLY CHRONICLE

THE autumn session of the Society opened on Thursday, October 7th, with a lecture by Lieut.-Colonel Melville, Professor of Hygiene at the Royal Army Medical College, on "Eugenics and Military Service." Mr. Arnold White presided. Colonel Melville emphasised the importance of military service for fostering ideals of physical health and efficiency.

He discussed the class from which recruits were drawn, and the causes of rejection as well as the sources of invalidism during the period of service. The advantages and disadvantages of compulsory service were discussed.

On October 5th the first of two lectures dealing with eugenics and venereal disease, was given by Dr. Harriet Alexander, of Chicago, to members of the Society and a few medical and educational experts who had been specially invited. The chair was taken by Lady Emily Lutyens. Dr. Alexander outlined the history of the movement in America for the improvement of social hygiene, and especially the educational methods adopted in Chicago. An interesting discussion followed.

A course of lectures has been arranged for the South London Ethical Society, beginning October 6th and extending fortnightly until Christmas. The lecturers will be Dr. Saleeby, Dr. Gordon-Wilson, Dr. H. Barnes, and Dr. Lionel Taylor.

On September 29th a drawing-room meeting was held by Miss Murray at 12, King's Gate Mansions, at which Dr. Saleeby gave an address. On

the evening of the same day Dr. Saleeby addressed the annual meeting of the West Ham Teachers' Association on "Education and Parenthood."

The first Council Meeting of the session was held on Wednesday, 6th October.

On 17th July, Dr. Lionel Taylor, kindly acting as the representative of the Society, read a paper on "Healthy and Unhealthy Types of Children" before the National Health Congress at Leeds.

The following is a short abstract of the paper.

"At the Buxton Public Health Congress last year I suggested that there were two distinct health enquiries, that of the community and that of the individual, which demand separate methods of investigation for their scientific solution.

"In the present paper I wish to offer a few suggestions as to the mode of research likely to be successful in the individual health aim, which the medical inspection of school children is calling into prominence.

"While recognising that average or standard heights and weights of children for different ages can be prepared, which do approximately represent healthy rates of growth, and that these are of value in comparing town with town, where the classes of citizen have similar occupations and race characteristics, yet I feel convinced that these methods are far too generalised to yield satisfactory results when individual child is compared with individual child. Nor do I feel that the prevalence of a particular disease in a particular family as compared with the general prevalence in other families is trustworthy evidence of hereditary susceptibility, and it is not capable of historical application, though it is broadly true that the prevalence of a disease in a community as compared with other similar communities does afford evidence of a defective state of public health capable of remedial treatment. But this comparison is only valid where social and climatic conditions are more or less similar. In like manner no standard measurement can be applied to any individual girl or boy unless it is a type standard corresponding to the sex and group characteristics to which that individual girl or boy belongs. That is what Sir Francis Galton clearly realises when he states that 'The aim of Eugenics is to represent each class . . . by its best specimens.'

"As the medical inspection of children must thus be founded on the study of the individual child, the school medical officer will have need to investigate his health problem on lines which will not only be useful to him in his separation of children into types, but also to the eugenicist, and the data which he will find it necessary to collect could therefore be made use of for eugenic, as well as school medical purposes. It would seem that the four following aspects of research are what both should need.

"(1) *Imperfect functioning*, when observed in a good environment, as being the most reliable test of inherited defect. (2) Whether infectivity and susceptibility in the individual to disease, acquired or inherited, are distinct tendencies. (3) Records of disease susceptibility as measured by the carefully noted degree of virulence of the course of each disease in different patients in one family. (4) Investigation into vigorous and ailing, susceptible and insusceptible, defective and normal healthy inheritance, studied separately in each type.

"If the general practitioner could be induced to co-operate for later information as to the after life of the children medically inspected by public authorities the result would be still more useful."